

Marine Air-Ground Task Force Secondary Imagery Dissemination System



Description

Marine Air-Ground Task Force (MAGTF) Secondary Imagery Dissemination System (SIDS), or MSIDS, consists of three sets of outstation equipment and one set of base station equipment. The outstation includes a basic still-photo digital camera with waterproof case, an advanced still-photo digital camera with fixed and telephoto lenses, a night vision intensifier tube, and a rugged handheld computer with data controller hardware/software. The base station consists of a rugged laptop computer with data controller hardware/software and a printer. The equipment that comprises MSIDS is made up entirely of commercial-off-the-shelf (COTS) equipment.

Operational Impact

MSIDS provides the only self-contained, hand-held, ground-prospective imagery capability for MAGTF reconnaissance units. This imagery is essential for mission planning and intelligence. Other MAGTF near-real-time imaging systems,

such as unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) and F/A-18 Advanced Tactical Airborne Reconnaissance System (ATARS), only provide overhead imagery and cannot capture the detail and ground perspectives available with MSIDS. In asymmetric threat environments-where targets of interest are often small, highly mobile units, such as terrorists or guerilla groups-it is imperative that the MAGTF be able to identify individuals and structures from the ground level. The required detail is not available from overhead sources. Technology insertions via an increment refresh plan will enable reconnaissance Marines equipped with MSIDS to receive needed technological upgrades in a more timely fashion.

Program Status

The Marine Corps refreshed the entire MSIDS imagery capability during FY 02. The FY 05 refresh will consist of replacing all computers and data controller hardware, and updating the operating software. The FY 06 refresh will consist of replacing current cameras, upgrading the night vision capability, and possibly adding a thermal capability. These efforts are essential to the MSIDS life-cycle support.

Procurement Profile: FY 05 FY 06

Quantity:

MSIDS computers	308	0
Personal Data Controllers	308	0
Cameras	0	219
Night Vision/Thermal	0	73

Developer/Manufacturer

Systems Integrator:

Integrity Data Inc. (IDI), Colorado Springs, CO